

ROUTE 17 GRANT PROGRAM RULES

Applications

1. Available at York County Office of Economic Development or Property Improvement Grant Program application may be downloaded from www.yorkcounty.gov
2. Applicant must have a current York County business license and be an owner or tenant of a business on Rt. 17. Tenants must have owner's signed permission.
3. Must include:
 - a. Written summary of proposed work
 - b. Photographs clearly showing conditions to be improved
 - c. Design plan for improvements
 - d. Exact samples of any paint or colors to be used. Paint colors should be selected from the Preservation Palette, unless otherwise approved by the Route 17 Revitalization Committee.
 - e. Two Cost estimates on all projects/work exceeding \$1,000.00, unless otherwise approved by the Route 17 Revitalization Committee.
4. Work must begin within 90 days of the approval date. A project-specific timeline will be established as part of the approval process, but in all cases, the project must be completed within 9 months of the approval date to obtain grant reimbursement.
5. **Applications with a landscaping component will receive more favorable consideration. The landscape portion of the project is eligible for 75% reimbursement of the total cost.**
6. Applications considered on rolling basis and grants administered as long as funds are available.
7. Once a grant is approved, applicant must sign a contract stating that they are obligated to begin all projects within 90 days and to complete all work listed in the application - to the specifications provided in the application - within 9 months of the grant approval date or they will forfeit their entire grant amount. It will also state that they will only be reimbursed up to the dollar amount stated in their approval letter for each project.

Grants

Program will provide matching grants up to \$20,000 or 50% of total cost of improvements whichever is less. Landscaping components are eligible for 75% of the total cost. The grant amount will not be increased should costs exceed what was submitted in the application. Also, if final costs are less than the amount originally submitted, the lesser amount will be paid to applicant. The cost of any labor for work done by the tenant or property owner themselves, in lieu of professional contractors, must be absorbed by the tenant or property owner; only the cost of materials will be considered for a grant.

- a. Façade Rehabilitation & Renovation: Up to \$20,000. Allowable improvements include, but are not necessarily limited to:
 - Painting
 - Roofing
 - Siding
 - Windows
 - Doors
 - Shutters
 - Canopies
 - Awnings
 - Other structural changes intended to improve buildings appearance
- b. Sign improvement – new or renovated. Preference is given to requests that reduce total amount of signage and to ground mounted monument signs.
- c. General Property Improvement:
 - Landscape improvements such as, retaining walls, steps, plantings
 - Repair or installation of exterior lighting
 - Improvements to or construction of entrances, sidewalks, parking areas
- d. Demolition: Removal of dilapidated and unsightly structures, including residential structures on property that is zoned commercial.

Architectural design consultation is available through EDA at no charge to business owner.

Landscaping designs that adhere to existing or planned landscaping for Rt. 17 are available to business owner at no charge.

Review Criteria

1. Aesthetic quality of project and design. Grants are awarded for property improvements, not for routine or recurring maintenance related requests.
2. Visual prominence and potential impact on attractiveness of Rt. 17
3. Conformance to corridor objectives such as
 - a. Landscape plan prepared in accordance with the overall Rt. 17 plan
 - b. Entrance Improvements that comply with VDOT entrance closure plans
 - c. Reduced or ground mounted signage
4. The Economic Development Authority has the right to consider exceptions that fully meet the intent of the Route 17 Property Improvement Grant Program.

Payment Procedures

1. Grants only awarded for work performed after approval of application. Grant funds will not be paid in piecemeal/by individual line items. In other words, all work submitted on one application, is considered one grant – if one line item is not done as stated in the application or not done at all, the entire grant amount is forfeited. Work can be submitted as multiple separate grants and will be paid after each grant is completed.
2. Work must begin within 90 days and be completed 9 months from date of approval
3. Grants awarded upon completion of project in accordance with terms originally approved in application.
4. Applicant must submit copies of:
 - a. Paid Invoices or receipts or returned checks - written proof showing that the account is **paid in full**.
 - b. Itemized statement of total cost of project
 - c. Copies of all permits and final approvals
5. Payment made by EDA

Note:

All information, rules, and regulations in this document are effective on applications received after May 11, 2006.